

SUBJECT: Prenatal Drug Screening  
SUBMITTED BY: Mackenzie Denton, OMS II, Student Delegate, Kentucky Delegation  
REFERRED TO: 2017 ACOFP Congress of Delegates

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RESOLUTION NO. 18

1 WHEREAS, an estimated 400,000–440,000 infants (10–11% of all births) are affected by  
2 prenatal alcohol or illicit drug exposure each year (1); and,  
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4 WHEREAS, children exposed to prenatal drug use have been associated with potentially  
5 deleterious and long-term effects (2); and,  
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7 WHEREAS, studies have shown that pregnant women who abuse drugs are much more  
8 likely to give birth to healthy babies if they receive prenatal care, even if they do not  
9 stop using drugs during pregnancy (3); and,  
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11 WHEREAS, early diagnosis and treatment of infants exposed to illicit drugs in utero has  
12 been shown to achieve the best outcomes (4); and,  
13  
14 WHEREAS, The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) recommends  
15 screening for drug use during prenatal care using a validated screening tool (4);  
16 now, therefore be it  
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18 RESOLVED, that the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) encourage  
19 prenatal drug use screening as part of prenatal care; and further be it  
20  
21 RESOLVED, that the ACOFP encourage providing education in addiction assistance to  
22 pregnant women with positive drug screens.

FINAL ACTION: APPROVED as of March 16, 2017

References:

1. Substance-Exposed Infants. *U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration*. [www.ncsacw.samhsa.gov](http://www.ncsacw.samhsa.gov)
2. Prenatal Exposure to Drugs of Abuse. *National Institute on Drug Abuse*. May 2011. [www.drugabuse.gov/sites/default/files/prenatal.pdf](http://www.drugabuse.gov/sites/default/files/prenatal.pdf)
3. Pulatie, Kristin. The Legality of Drug-Testing Procedures for Pregnant Women. *Virtual Mentor*. Jan. 2008. 10 (1): 41-44. [www.journalofethics.ama-assn.org/2008/01/hlaw1-0801.html](http://www.journalofethics.ama-assn.org/2008/01/hlaw1-0801.html)
4. Newman, Laura. As Substance Abuse Rises, Hospitals Drug Test Mothers, Newborns. *American Association for Clinical Chemistry*. Mar 2016. <https://www.aacc.org/publications/cln/articles/2016/march/as-substance-abuse-rises-hospitals-drug-test-mothers-newborns>